

STATE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ADVISORY BOARD  
Meeting Minutes  
October 17, 2003

Present: Tom Harding, Mary Isley, Hal Kahikina, Rita Manriquez, Malexi McPhee, Dr. Thomas O'Callaghan, Dr. Robert Sloan, Lee Taylor, Kawena Young

Absent: Cori Fujiura, Dr. Patricia Heu, Tony Hunstiger, Douglas Hupp, Kelly Knudsen

DOH representatives: Aaron Arakaki, Curtis Inouye, Aaron Sugino

Other: Robin Brandt, PBRRTC, Kathleen Delahanty, Hawaii Disability Rights Center, Lou Erteschik, Hawaii Disability Rights Center

- I. Call to Order: Vice-Chair Tom Harding called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. There was a short delay in the start time due to technical difficulties at the Video Conference Center.
- II. Review of Agenda: Agenda reviewed with no comments.
- III. New Business:
  - A. Presentation by Kathleen Delahanty from the Hawaii Disability Rights Center (HDRC).

The HDRC is the Protection and Advocacy Agency for the State of Hawaii. Their Agency is mandated by Federal Law to provide advocacy services which includes legal services for individuals who qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). They currently represent roughly 185,000 individuals statewide. The HDRC recently was awarded a TBI grant from the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) to provide advocacy for individuals with traumatic brain injuries (TBI). Once funding is received, HDRC will be able to provide services for individuals with TBI comparable to other programs. Services that are provided include: information and referral, outreach, citizenship, education, employment, freedom of association, housing, entitlement, systems cases such as lawsuits. A TBI Brochure will be created with the funds to provide information regarding the available services.

Advocates or attorneys represent HDRC on all islands but intake is done through the Oahu Agency. Kathleen provided the intake process for individuals in need of

services for the Board Members. Additional information on the services provided are listed on the Agency's Brochure. To receive a copy of the brochure, contact Kathleen at HDRC at (808) 949-2928.

#### IV. Old Business

- A. Speakers Bureau Update: Mary Isley reported that Speakers Bureau Coordinator, Leslie, has left to take another position on the mainland. Keahi Teason was just hired to fill the vacant position. She is in the Brain Injury Association's office Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00p.m.

Mary also reported that she did a presentation in Hilo in September on Hawaii Disability Rights Center and the Brain Injury Association. The presentation was broadcast by Olelo (Public TV) and feedback by the public was positive.

- B. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Grant Update: Janice Ruoff, George Washington University, will be on Oahu and there will be two informational sessions open to the public. One will be at a Brain Injury Association's support group meeting and the other meeting will be on October 31, 2003 at the Video Conference Center from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Janice will discuss the Distance Learning Program along with what types of training skills that a professional working with this population would require to address the needs and concerns of the TBI individual and their families.

Aaron Arakaki reported that there was a total of 320 hits on the neurotrauma website for the month of August, 2003. There were 119 hits on the website reported for September but this is a half months total ( to September 15). Due to technical difficulties with the way the Department tracked the incoming hits, it overwhelmed the log files so any hits reported after September 15, 2003 were lost. Aaron reported that the problem is being resolved at this time. Regarding calls to the Helpline, there were 19 calls in August and 13 calls in September 2003.

- C. Casebook of Critical Situations: Board Member Kawena Young thanked DOH staff Ken Fukuhara and Lester Matsumoto in assisting her in relocating a friend who is a TBI survivor. This individual had observed an illegal act being done by his landlord and did not want to reside in a location that he did not feel safe in. Lester and Ken are continuing to locate a safe residence for this individual. Another situation Kawena is involved with is an individual with a traumatic brain injury needing to care for another individual with a traumatic brain injury. Kawena continues to provide assistance but resources and services are so limited.

The Department will compile the information from the Casebook of Critical Situations and present this to the Board at a later date. The Board will be able to review and identify specific areas that the Department can address.

- D. Division Update: Aaron Arakaki reported that the Department participated in the Seniors Fair at the Blaisdell Center September 26-28, 2003. Staff handed out roughly 350 plastic bags containing our business card, brochure, and newsletter.

We were also able to have a questionnaire on Traumatic Brain Injury completed by willing individuals. Overall, it was a very positive experience participating in this event.

The Can-Do Conference is scheduled for October 24 and 25, 2003 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel. Board Members participating in the Conference as speakers or moderators have received confirmation letters and the strand sessions has been set. We look forward to seeing all the Board Members at the Conference.

A concern was brought up regarding communication with the Executive Office on Aging. Aaron reported that there are some Administrative changes within the agency and the Department will follow-up with this concern.

- E. Neighbor Island TBI Activities and Community Needs:  
Mary Isley reported that she has received many calls and requests to have a TBI support group started in Hilo. She has started a list of individuals who have called and is looking for a facilitator who would be interested in coordinating this support group. If anyone is interested or knows of someone who is, please let Mary know.
- F. Joint Advisory Board Subcommittee on the Registry: Tom Harding reported on the subcommittee's meeting with Hawaii Health Information Corporation (HHIC). He felt the initial meeting with Susan Forbes from HHIC was very good and hopeful in that HHIC in the future will collect clinical data from the hospitals; data that the subcommittee feels is needed to get the Registry rolling. Currently, HHIC collects Administrative and demographic data, not clinical data, which is the data the subcommittee, is looking for. However, Tom had mentioned that the subcommittee would review the data that HHIC has and make an attempt to abstract any data that is useful to the subcommittee.

The Department obtained TBI data from HHIC in 1999 at the request of the STBIAB. In 2002, the Department again requested data from HHIC covering Neurotrauma injuries from 2001 and 1999. A comparison was then made between the two years utilizing the variables from the initial 1999 data. However, the data from 1999 and 2001 does not follow the National data variables regarding age range. In the future, any data the Department obtains from HHIC will adhere to the National or CDC's age group ranges.

- G. State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board Subcommittees: Reports by the Subcommittees on Professional Awareness and Improving Funding and Services will be deferred to the next STBIAB meeting on November 21, 2003. Any Board Members, who are interested in being part of the Subcommittees, please see either Tom Harding or Tony Hunstiger.
- V. Announcements:
- A. Dr. Craine of the Craine Institute passed away and in November the clinic will be closing.

- B. Kawena is having a luncheon at the Sheraton Hotel on October 18, 2003 at Ocean Terrace Restaurant. The luncheon is for individuals with traumatic brain injuries to say “thank you” to their parents for the support and assistance they receive. Parents of individuals with traumatic brain injuries will have the opportunity to socialize with other parents.
  - C. Brain Injury Association is having a mini-conference on October 18, 2003 at the All Star Sports and Therapy from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Theme of the conference is Brain Injury in Pre-school years.
- VI. Next Meeting:  
Date: Friday, November 21, 2003  
Time: 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Sites: Capitol Center VCC and Neighbor Island sites

Recorded by: Curtis Inouye